

April 9, 1984 LB 466

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, this is very unusual for me because I have yet in my eight years to stand before you and ask for an override of the Governor's veto. But I feel very strongly about LB 466. It was heard in our committee. I am Chairman of the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee and there was very, very strong support for LB 466. I would like to tell you first and I will not go into great detail because LB 466 was discussed at length on Select File and General File, and the purpose of the bill was to create the nongame and endangered species conservation fund and to provide a means whereby financing of the fund may be through a voluntary checkoff on the Nebraska individual income tax return form. This nongame and endangered species conservation fund is to supplement any other sources and funding for the preservation and the protection and the enhancement of nongame threatened and endangered species. LB 466 will fund its own expense. There is 31 states now have the checkoff program with very few or no problems whatsoever. The checkoff will be added to a form that must be designed periodically anyway and so there shouldn't be that much expense to the Department of Revenue. Other checkoffs will have to be judged on their own merits and this one has been passed by the Legislature twice. It is clearly the will of the Legislature that we have a wildlife checkoff. We will be first to come back and correct any problems I am sure that may arise on the wildlife checkoff. In other states the fact that the department must fund the collection has become the most significant problem. We don't have that problem in Nebraska because there will be absolutely no cost or no fiscal cost from the general fund. It will come from the fund that will be created by LB 466 and all expense incurred by the Department of Revenue will come from that fund. I urge the override of LB 466. As I said, there is quite a bit of support through several organizations throughout the State of Nebraska and many times I have said and in my letters to the people that have written to me about LB 466 there is a lot of people like myself that do not buy a hunting permit or a fishing permit but I certainly would like to contribute to LB 466 or to